

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 946

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PARGUE

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 5401

USIA FOR IMV; IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJ: 35MM FEATURE FILM PROGRAM- AMBASSADORIAL AND AMERICAN
LIBRARY SHOWINGS

1. TWO RECENTLY RELEASED AMERICAN FEATURE FILMS ("WHERE THE LILIES BLOOM" AND "THE STING") WERE PRESENTED IN SPECIAL INVITATIONAL SHOWINGS IN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND IN AMERICAN LIBRARY IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, PROVIDING AN ORIGINAL AND VALUABLE DIMENSION TO POST PROGRAMMING. THE TWO FILMS, MADE AVAILABLE TO THE POST THROUGH COOPERATION OF MPAA AND USIA, ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF MANY NOT SEEN HERE BY THE ROMANIAN PUBLIC AND ENABLED THE POST TO REACH A CROSS-SECTION OF IMPORTANT ROMANIANS FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONS AND FIELDS OF ACTIVITY.

2. THE SHOWINGS IN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE TO GROUPS OF 20 TO 30 SENIOR ROMANIANS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT/PARTY, ECONOMIC, THEATSE, AND CINEMA LEADERS AND UNIVERSITY IFFICIALS, WERE PRECEDED BY A BRIEF COCKTAIL HOUR WHICH PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACT FOR EMBASSY OFFICERS WITH A NUMBER OF ROMANIANS WHOM THEY OTHERWISE WOULD SELDOM MEET.

3. SHOWINGS IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY TO AUDIENCES OF CA 170

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PERSONS ON EACH OCCASION (IN THE THEATRE WHICH HAS A SEATING

CAPACITY FOR ONLY 120) BROUGHT TO THE LIBRARY IMPORTANT LEADERS FROM ALL FIELDS OF THE EDUCATION AND ARTS.

4. AUDIENCE REACTIONS TO BOTH FILMS WAS ENORMOUSLY FAVORABLE. IMPACT OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE OF FILMS WAS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT LACK OF ENGLISH APPEARED TO BE ONLY MINOR HANDICAP. CURRENT CONTINUING SAD STATE OF MOST ROMANIAN FILM PRODUCTION MADE THESE FILMS EVEN MORE APPRECIATED. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FILMS (AND A GLOSSARY IN THE CASE OF "STING") PREPARED BY IPS CHARLOTT ASTOR WERE IMMENSELY USEFUL. THESE WERE SENT WITH INVITATIONS AND WERE ALSO AVAILABLE AT SHOWINGS, THEREBY ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF THE FILM. THOUGH BOTH FILMS ARE MILES APART IN TERMS OF SUBJECT MATTER AND TREATMENT, BOTH REPRESENT CURRENT PRODUCTIONS OF THE AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHIC MIND WE BELIEVE MERIT SHOWING TO ROMANIANS.

5. PRINT OF "LILIES" MADE AVAILABLE TO US WAS LOANED WITH PERMISSION OF DISTRIBUTOR TO ROMANIA FILM TO CONSIDER FOR PUBLIC SHOWING HERE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING SHOWINGS OF OTHER FILMS BEING MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THIS PROGRAM AND ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO MPAA AND USIA/IMV FOR CONTINUING COOPERATION.
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